

By: Whitmire

S.B. No. 29

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating a Legislative Policy Council to perform policy analysis and related empirical analysis and research.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 3, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 331 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 331. LEGISLATIVE POLICY COUNCIL

Sec. 331.001. LEGISLATIVE POLICY COUNCIL. The Legislative Policy Council is an agency in the legislative branch of state government.

Sec. 331.002. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The council is composed of the lieutenant governor, four members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and four members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker.

(b) The lieutenant governor is the chairman of the council and the speaker is the vice chairman.

Sec. 331.003. QUORUM; MEETINGS. (a) A majority of the members of the council from each house constitutes a quorum to transact business.

(b) The council shall meet at the call of the chairman or on written petition of a majority of the members of the council from each house.

(c) The council shall meet in Austin, except that if a

1 majority of the members of the council from each house agree, the
2 council may meet in any location determined by the council.

3 (d) Each member of the legislature is entitled to attend and
4 present the member's views in any meeting of the council. A
5 legislator who is not a member of the council may not vote.

6 Sec. 331.004. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; PERSONNEL. (a) The
7 council may employ an executive director.

8 (b) The executive director, with the approval of the
9 council, may employ necessary personnel.

10 Sec. 331.005. COUNCIL EXPENDITURES; SALARIES. (a) The
11 amount of allowable expenditures for the council is determined by
12 legislative appropriation.

13 (b) The council shall determine the salaries of its
14 employees.

15 Sec. 331.006. GIFTS AND GRANTS. (a) The council may accept
16 gifts, grants, and donations from any organization described in
17 Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for
18 the purpose of funding any activity under this chapter.

19 (b) All gifts, grants, and donations must be accepted in an
20 open meeting by a majority of the voting members of the council and
21 reported in the minutes of the council meeting with the name of the
22 donor and purpose of the gift, grant, or donation.

23 Sec. 331.007. DUTIES. The council staff shall perform
24 policy analysis and related empirical analysis and research at the
25 direction of the council regarding issues and matters identified by
26 the council that may affect state revenue or appropriations or that
27 may be the subject of legislation or proposed amendments to the

1 Texas Constitution.

2 Sec. 331.008. AGENCY COOPERATION. Each state agency in any
3 branch of state government shall cooperate with the council in
4 providing the council with the information the council requires to
5 perform its duties.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
11 legislative session.